

Approved For Release 2005/11/29 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000700040033-7

CONFIDENTIAL~~SECRET~~DOCUMENT NO. 72DO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S ☒NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1990

AUTH: HR 70-2

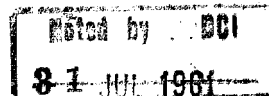
DATE: 20/6/80 REVIEWER:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Situation in the Congo*



1. The situation in the Congo remains confused and obscure, to US observers in the field as well as to analysts in Washington. The reconvening of parliament, pressed by the UN in the hope that a new government of greater international and internal standing could be created (and by the US in the hope that such a government would be dominated by moderates) is now under way at Louvain University. However, a number of problems have arisen.

2. A number of "ringers," many of them clearly pro-Gizenga, have shown up claiming parliamentary status. Premier Iléo has thus far failed to go through with the plan that he resign so as to permit Adoula or some other potentially more acceptable and effective moderate an opening to try to form a government. General Mobutu is reported considering a coup in the event that Gizenga or one of his group is given parliamentary

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*Supplements Memorandum for the Director, "Current Developments in the Congo," 19 July 1961.

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authority to form a government. The UN's ability to maintain control is being weakened by the imminent departure of Tunisian forces. Tshombe, having renounced his promise to cooperate in forming an all-Congo government following his release and return to Katanga, has at least for the moment moved to the sidelines, and his rival and present spokesman for the Katanga regime, Menzango, has retaliated against pressures to accommodate by announcing his intention to seek economic aid from the Bloc and reach accommodation with the Stanleyville regime. Gizenga may yet join the Louvain gathering but remains in Stanleyville reportedly immobilized by bronchitis. Although his position there has been buttressed by the belated arrival of a Soviet diplomatic mission, there is continuing evidence of dissatisfaction with him on the part of the provincial authorities ^{and} at least some of the Stanleyville military.

3. The direction in which events will move depends in the first instance on how the inexperienced rabble of Congolese parliamentarians, real and fraudulent, react to the complex array of pressures and appeals to which they are being exposed. A majority of the group (excluding the Katanga delegation) is probably essentially moderate in outlook, and the possibility remains that an Adoula government may be formed after all, though probably with some Stanleyville representation. However,

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there are numerous pitfalls. Ileo's refusal to step down may lead to a ground-swell of feeling that Gizenga should have first chance at forming a government before moderate is chosen. Even if he does resign, a combination of bribes, pressure, and general bandwagon effect may provide parliamentary approval of a Gizenga government. Possible indication of such an outcome is provided by the 1961-57 election of a pro-Lumumbist deputy as President of the Chamber of Deputies and of a political unknown possibly susceptible to pressure by Stanleyville to the Presidency of the Senate.

4. With the selection of officers completed, Parliament opens officially tomorrow. In all likelihood there will continue to be considerable milling around; however, the first step will be the naming of a government "formateur" by President Kasavabu. The key question will be whether the formateur is pro- or anti-Gizenga. Meanwhile, Gizenga seems to be running into new trouble from the chief of the Stanleyville parliamentarians, the racist Minister of the Interior Gbenye, who may make his own bid for power.

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SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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Date: 26 July 61

From Sherman Kent

To: Mr Dulles

Some quick thoughts
on The Congo by way of
up-dating the memo of
a week ago (attached)